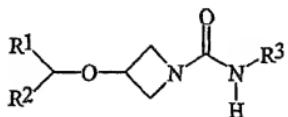


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R¹ and R² are independently selected from aryl; and

R³ is hydrogen or alkyl;

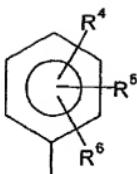
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof,

wherein at least one of R¹ and R² has a non-hydrogen substituent in the ortho-position(s) thereof relative to the point of attachment to the [-CH-O-] group.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from mono-cyclic aromatic groups.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from phenyl.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from a group of formula:



wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, alkyl, thioalkyl, alkoxy, alkylsulfonyl, amino, mono- and di-alkyl amino, mono- and di-aryl amino, alkylarylamino, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, NR¹⁴C(O)R¹⁵, NR¹⁴SO₂R¹⁶, COOR¹⁵, OC(O)R¹⁶, CONR⁷R⁸ and SO₂NR⁷R⁸, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen and alkyl or may form a 5 or 6 membered ring optionally containing 1 or 2 additional heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; and wherein R¹⁴ is selected from H and lower alkyl, R¹⁵ is selected from H, alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl and R¹⁶ is selected from alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² are different.

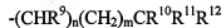
6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from alkyl, thioalkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl and alkylsulfonyl wherein the alkyl group is selected from lower alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from trifluoromethyl and difluoromethoxy.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein one or two of R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are hydrogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R¹⁴ is selected from H.
11. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from alkyl.
12. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from lower alkyl.
13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R³ is selected from alkyl.
14. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R³ is selected from tertiary butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl and isopropyl.
15. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R³ is selected from :
:



wherein n is 0 or 1;
m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;
R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² are selected from hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, thioalkyl, amino, mono- and di-alkyl amino, alkoxy carbonyl and R¹³;
wherein R¹³ is selected from aryl, heteroaryl and non-aromatic heterocyclic optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, oxo, aryl, heteroaryl and non-aromatic heterocycle.

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 15 wherein m is 0 or 1.
17. (Original) A compound according to claim 15 wherein n is 0.

18. (Original) A compound according to claim 13 wherein R³ is selected from cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, norbornanyl and adamantly.

19. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from:
3-(2,4,4'-trichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-thiophen-2-yl ethyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(cyclopropylmethyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2,5-dimethylfuran-3-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2,3-Dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(5-methyl-isoxazol-3-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-[(R)-sec-butyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-bromo thiophen-3-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-[(S)-sec-butyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(thiophen-3-yl-methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-methoxyphenylmethyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-furanyl methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(3-ethoxypropyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-tetrahydrofuranyl methyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(exo-2-norbornanyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(1-phenylpropyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-[(R)-a-methylbenzyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-[(R)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-[(S)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(n-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(ethyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide
3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-[(S)-a-methyl-benzyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-yl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclopentyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-yl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-(2,4'-dichlorobenzhydryloxy)-N-(2-methylbut-2-yl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-2'-fluoro-4'-bromobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylthio]benzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylthio]benzhydryloxy]-N-(iso-propyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylthio]benzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylthio]benzhydryloxy]-N-(benzyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-fluoro-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-fluoro-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(iso-propyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-fluoro-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-fluoro-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-fluoro-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(benzyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-(iso-propyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-(benzyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-trifluoromethoxy]benzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-trifluoromethoxy]benzhydryloxy]-N-(iso-propyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-trifluoromethoxy]benzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-

carboxarnide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(benzyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(1-adarnantyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-amyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylbenzhydryloxy]-N-(1-adamantyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylbenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methylbenzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methoxybenzhydryloxy]-N-(1-adamantyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-methoxybenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(1-adamantyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(allyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(methylthio)benzhydryloxy]-N-(1-adamantyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(difluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(difluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(difluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(iso-propyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(difluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(cyclohexyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-(difluoromethoxy)benzhydryloxy]-N-(allyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(sec-butyl)azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-[(S)-a-methylbenzyl]azetidine-l-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-2'-fluoro-4'-(1-piperidinyloxomethyl)benzhydryloxy]-N-

(tertbutyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide

3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-2'-fluorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide, and
3-[(S*)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide.

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a suitable excipient.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of a disorder selected from the group consisting of obesity, excessive food intake, and smoking craving mediated by CB₁ receptors comprising administration to a subject in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt-~~or~~ prodrug thereof.

Claims 23-30 (Canceled)

31. (New) 3-[(R)-2-(trifluormethyl)-4'-chlorobenzhydryloxy]-N-(tert-butyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide.